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**JUN 27 2006**

KD\_IM-688006\_1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:  
John T. Braun et al.

Application Serial No.: 10/768,797

Filed: January 30, 2004

ORTHOPEDIC DISTRACTION  
IMPLANTS AND TECHNIQUES

Before the Examiner:  
Robert W. Amarel, Jr.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Ref. No. MSDI-682/PC798.00

June 27, 2006

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 27, 2006, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. An extension of time request and fee for two months to and including June 27, 2006, is enclosed herewith. No additional extensions of time or fees are believed due. However, please provide any additional extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300 on:

June 27, 2006  
(Date of Transmission)

Douglas A. Collier  
Name of Registered Representative

Douglas A. Collier  
Signature

June 27, 2006  
Date of Signature

Response to Office Action  
Serial. No. 10/768,797  
Atty. Docket No. MSDI-682/PC798.00  
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